

## CLAIMS

1. A method for producing iturin A and its homologues, comprising cultivating a *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues in a liquid medium containing 2, mass% or more of soybean powder or its extract to allow the microbe to accumulate iturin A and its homologues in the medium in a concentration of 1.5 g/L or more.
2. The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that can grow in a medium containing 1.5 g/L or more of iturin A and its homologues.
3. The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the *Bacillus* microbe having an ability to produce iturin A and its homologues is a *Bacillus* microbe that has substantially no ability to produce surfactin.
4. The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein 0 to 3 mass% of phosphates, in terms of  $K_2HPO_4$ , is added to the liquid medium.
5. The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis*.
6. The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the microbe is *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).
7. The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as

claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the microbe is a mutant of *Bacillus subtilis* SD142 (FERM BP-08427).

8. The method for producing iturin A and its homologues as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid medium containing 2 mass% or more of soybean powder or its extract contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of maltose, starch syrup, soluble starch, dextrin, glucose, sucrose, and fructose.

10 9. A culture containing iturin A and its homologues obtained by the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein iturin A and its homologues are accumulated in the culture medium.

15 10. A solid containing iturin A and its homologue obtained by drying the culture as claimed in claim 9.

11. An agent for preventing plant diseases, comprising the culture containing iturin A and its homologue or solid thereof as claimed in claim 9 or 10.

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12. A method for preventing a plant disease, comprising using the culture containing iturin A and its homologue or solid thereof as claimed in claim 9 or 10 in an unpurified form.

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